

Russell Antonio Goodwin, Sr.

MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEES ON:

Health and Human Needs • Transportation, Public Works, and Transit • Personnel



Milwaukee County Board
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Supervisor Goodwin was sworn in by the County Clerk in the courthouse parking lot due to public health measures.

Dear District 18 Constituents,

I am so grateful for the many calls and emails I have received from each of you, especially about the county's budget for 2021. I know that COVID-19 meant it was a difficult year for each of you, and that is why I am so proud of the work I and my colleague's accomplished for the county's 2021 budget. Supporting you and Milwaukee County was the focus of all our efforts and despite our financial difficulties, we are making historic improvements.

I am particularly proud of the improvements we are making in our youth justice system. I serve on the Health and Human Needs committee and have heard your concerns about the youth at Lincoln Hills and the need to ensure that those youth are able to envision a brighter future for themselves. The 2021 Budget makes available \$1 million dollars for youth transitioning out of Lincoln Hills and Cooper Lake. Now, those youth and their families will have access to educational and vocational services, job placement, and other such programming. I extend my thanks to Supervisor Taylor for all the thought and effort she put into crafting the amendment that made these funds available.

I also know how important our parks system is to you. Over the years, our parks system has suffered. The Parks Department's budget and cultural amenities looked especially grim for 2021. Despite the challenges, we have been able to ensure that the Mitchell Park Domes and Boerner Botanical Gardens will operate for all of 2021. In our district, you will see improvements to Lindsay Park as well. I'm especially excited about the safety improvements that will be made as part of that replacement.

Lastly, one of my top priorities as a Supervisor is ensuring your safety, especially with the increased crime this year. Numerous amendments were proposed to cut the Sheriff's budget by 25% or more. These cuts were unreasonable and did not reflect the concerns and priorities I heard from each of you. In my short time as a Supervisor, my experience working with Sheriff Lucas has been outstanding. They are doing a great job of being transparent, responsive, and compassionate towards the needs and concerns of District 18 residents. Cutting his budget by 25% would make it impossible to patrol effectively our parks system, including our Menomonee River Parkway, among other duties like patrolling the freeways and providing security to General Mitchell Airport. I am proud to announce that those amendments failed.

Again, I am so grateful for all of you. Know my prayers are with each of you. I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or ideas you have.

Sincerely,

County Supervisor Russell Antonio Goodwin, Sr.

The 2021 Milwaukee County Budget

Under the leadership of the new County Executive David Crowley and the Board's new chairwoman Marcelia Nicholson, Milwaukee County residents can be proud of the changes that are coming in 2021 to Milwaukee County. The Health and Human Services Department (HHS) will see the most changes with two new policies.

First, HHS is adopting a "No Wrong Door" policy. Milwaukee County's departments and services have historically been siloed. Residents would need to go through one door to get transportation, another door to get mental health services, and yet another door for housing. As we aim to reduce barriers for residents to access our services and achieve racial equity, we are moving toward a "No Wrong Door" model where everyone can get the variety of services they need regardless of where they enter the system.

Second, the Department on Aging will be integrated into Health and Human Services. I know many of you had questions about this proposal, and I was glad to have many of you attend my virtual town hall to hear Director Shakita LaGrant address some of your concerns. I am confident this change will help us serve our seniors better. In addition to shielding the Aging department from cuts, three new employees were added to the department, including an Elder Benefits Specialist. This specialist will be the go-to person for questions about Medicare and Medicaid.

A document called **Frequently Asked Questions: Department on Aging Integration** is available on my county webpage if you are looking for more details.

Here are some other highlights of the 2021 budget:

- The Vehicle Registration fee will not be increased
- Property taxes for the average homeowner will not increase
- Increased funds to the County Federated Library System to expand digital resource materials
- Increased funding to for the Housing Division to help those facing homelessness

Other Legislative Highlights

- **File 20-763:** In light of the increased violence we have seen this year, I co-sponsored a resolution recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The resolution also calls for the creation of a Purple Alert system statewide. If you or someone you know is living in a violent domestic situation, there are resources to help support them. One such resource is Sojourner Peace Center. Their domestic violence hotline is **(414) 933-2722**. Visit www.familypeacecenter.org for more information
- **File 20-362:** To help raise additional funds for the Parks Department, I co-sponsored a resolution which will create a special Wisconsin license plate with proceeds going to the Parks, among other revenue generating opportunities
- **File 20-379:** Coronavirus Relief: The federal government provided aid to state and local government for COVID-19 response efforts. However, per federal government restrictions, the aid cannot be used to replace lost tax revenue. I sponsored a resolution asking the federal government for additional aid with more flexibility for how counties could use it.

To see my full voting record, go to CLIC, select "People" and find my name. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

How Does the Legislative Process Work in Milwaukee County?



*Certain legislation, such as creating new employment positions, requires a two-thirds vote for adoption.

Energy Assistance is Available Now

Through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, qualified Milwaukee County residents receive a one-time annual payment* to make your heating and electric bills more affordable! Make your money go further while keeping your home warm and your family safe. That's something we can all feel good about.



RECEIVING ENERGY ASSISTANCE IS AS EASY AS 1 - 2 - 3!

1

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY!

(175,000 MKE county residents will!)

2020 - 2021 HOME ENERGY INCOME GUIDELINES

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ONE MONTH INCOME	ANNUAL INCOME
1	\$2,490.08	\$29,881
2	\$3,256.33	\$39,076
3	\$4,022.50	\$48,270
4	\$4,788.67	\$57,464
5	\$5,554.83	\$66,658
6	\$6,321.00	\$75,852
7	\$6,464.67	\$77,576
8	\$6,608.33	\$79,300

THE HOME ENERGY + PROGRAM USES A PREVIOUS ONE-MONTH INCOME TEST WHICH IS ANNUALIZED TO DETERMINE PROGRAM INCOME ELIGIBILITY. INCOME FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE SELF-EMPLOYED, FARMERS OR SEASONAL WORKERS IS BASED ON FEDERAL INCOME TAX FORMS FOR THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

2

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT OR COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION ONLINE!



Apply between October 1 - May 15



Visit **KEEPPWARMKE.ORG**

OR



Call **270-4-MKE (4653)**

Dial 2-1-1 for after-hours help.

3

DUE TO COVID-19, ALL APPOINTMENTS ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY PHONE.

(A team member will call you at your scheduled appointment time to process your application.)

You may also qualify for services like furnace repair, weatherization and crisis benefits.

*Funding covers a portion of energy costs; it is not intended to pay your entire energy bill. How much funding you receive depends on several factors, including your income, size of your home or apartment, and energy costs. (In most cases, the annual Energy Assistance monetary benefit will be paid directly to your energy supplier.)

Transit Spotlight: County Board Approves MCTS NEXT Plan

Benefits of MCTS NEXT include:



Expanded High Frequency Service

This means there will be a larger number of routes where buses come every 15 minutes or better. 160,000 more people and 43,000 additional jobs will be served by these high frequency routes



More service along high-demand corridors



Less waiting when transferring between routes



Service that is easier to use and understand



New service to major job centers and grocery stores



Faster travel times

MCTS NEXT is cost-neutral – meaning it was created based on the existing budget to ensure that operating costs remain consistent. In 2021, the system changes will be rolled out in three phases: Phase 1 in the Spring, Phase 2 in the Summer and Phase 3 in the Fall. A detailed communications and public outreach plan will be announced in January. MCTS looks forward to evolving transit services to meet the needs of the community.

Key Government Contacts

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Supervisor Russell Antonio Goodwin, Sr.	278-4259
County Executive David Crowley	278-4211
Parks	257-7275
Transit	937-3218
County Clerk	278-4067
Sheriff	278-4766
Register of Deeds	278-4021
Veterans Services	266-1234
Department on Aging	289-6874
Clerk of Circuit Courts	278-5362
Mental Health Crisis Hotline	257-7222

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Milwaukee Common Council	286-2221
Department of Public Works	286-2489
Police (non-emergency)	933-4444
Health Department	286-3521
City Clerk	286-2221

STATE GOVERNMENT

Department of Financial Institutions	608-261-9555
Department of Revenue, Individuals	608-266-2486
Department of Revenue, Businesses	608-266-2776
State Legislative Hotline	800-362-9472

OTHER

Rent Assistance, Community Advocates	449-4777
WI Small Business Development Center	608-263-7794

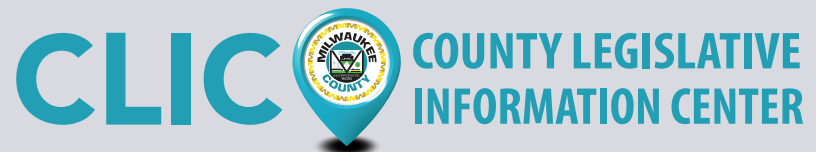
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For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:

county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC

Lindsay Park is Getting an Upgrade!

— EXPECTED CONSTRUCTION FALL 2021 —

I'm proud to announce that the Milwaukee County Budget for 2021 includes funds to replace the Lindsay Park playground equipment!



Milwaukee County Parks will be engaging with the community to learn more about what improvements you want to see. Those opportunities may include pop-up surveys, virtual meetings, and online information. Look for updates beginning in 2021! Feel free to contact me directly as well. It's my pleasure to represent your concerns to the Parks Department!